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PATENT  
Atty. Docket No. EXT-023  
(2457/21)

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7/31/02  
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JUL 29 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Lapidus et al.

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

USSN: 09/448,042

GROUP NUMBER: 1655

FILING DATE: 11/23/99

EXAMINER: Arthur, L

TITLE: *PRIMER EXTENSION METHODS UTILIZING DONOR AND  
ACCEPTOR MOLECULES FOR DETECTING NUCLEIC ACIDS*

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND  
RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the final Office action mailed on April 24, 2002. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections made in the Office action. A Continued Prosecution Application Request is filed herewith.

**Amendments**

Please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1 and 25 as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method for determining the presence of a target nucleotide, the method comprising the steps of:

CL  
(a) exposing a biological sample selected from the group consisting of blood, stool and urine to a nucleic acid primer capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid, said